

RECOGNITION OF MR. KEVIN F.
KAST OF ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin F. Kast, an exceptional leader from my district in St. Charles, Missouri. Kevin recently announced his retirement as President of three major health facilities—SSM St. Joseph Health Center, SSM Joseph Hospital West and SSM Joseph Medical Park in St. Charles County.

I have known Kevin for many years, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and praise him for his years of service, not only to SSM St. Joseph, but also to the St. Charles community at large. Kevin is a visionary and a compassionate, energetic, and inspiring leader.

Under Kevin's leadership, SSM St. Joseph has earned a variety of local, state and national honors. It is the first recipient of the MissouriPRO Quality Award, and twice has been named by Solucient as one of the 100 Top Hospitals™ in the country. SSM St. Joseph is a member of SSM Health Care, the first health care winner of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Kevin has been active in St. Charles County and our larger region with memberships in many civic, professional and volunteer organizations, and has an impressive list of personal accomplishments.

Again, I am pleased to be able to honor Kevin Kast today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life and career.

HONORING MICHAEL R. BLAKEY,
LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Blakey, Lake County Victim Witness Administrator, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement. He has been an exceptional public servant throughout his long and prestigious career.

Since November 1984, when Mike Blakey started the Victim-Witness Division, he has planned and organized the activities of that division to improve the safety of Lake County residents. Mike was instrumental in preparing the original grant application for the Victim-Witness Program and over the years he has actively expanded and enhanced assistance programs for victims of crime. Due to his efforts, Lake County has enjoyed one of the top programs in the State of California.

Over the years, Mike has received numerous letters of recognition from local and state agencies acknowledging his accomplishments in protecting and enhancing the rights of victims of crime. In early 2000, Mike and his office were formally commended by a federal auditor as the Best Rural Counties Program in the Nation for compliance with the Violence Against Women Act.

For the past 20 years, Mike has been a leader in California's victim's rights and advocacy movement. He provided leadership for California as President of the California Victim-Witness Coordination Council, as Chairman of California's Victim-Witness Rural Coalition, as President of Lake County's Service Coordinating Council, as Chairman of the Lake County Crime Victims for Court Reform Committee, and as Treasurer of Lake County's AWARE program. In addition, he worked with the National Organization for Victim Assistance, Governor's Training Conference on Crime Victims, and AGAPE Shelter for Battered Women and Children.

Mike's personal dedication, vision, leadership abilities, and commitment have given victims of crime the resources and protection they need.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Mike Blakey for his commitment and dedication to his profession and for his service to the people of California.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
TIMAKA JONES AND LAWRENCE
BROWDER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Ms. Timaka Jones and Mr. Lawrence Browder of Humphreys County in the State of Mississippi. Ms. Jones and Mr. Browder are unique in that they are one of the few father and daughter duos, elected officials in the State of Mississippi. Before Jones began her political career, she assisted her father in becoming the first African American elected to the Office of Chancery Clerk in Humphreys County. Prior to Mr. Browder being elected Chancery Clerk, he was the first African-American Alderman in the City of Belzoni, where he served for 9 years.

As the daughter of a political father, Ms. Jones was influenced to spread her wings. After being requisitioned by former-Supervisor Arvell Bullock, she announced her candidacy for Justice Court Judge. In 1999, she won this office, being the first and youngest African-American Justice Court Judge in Humphreys County. In 2003 she fulfilled her ambition to become the first female African American Circuit Clerk.

Ms. Timaka Jones and Mr. Lawrence Browder have both been influential in helping others who have decided to run for political office in Humphreys County.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to these outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserve mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
MRS. GEORGIA VICKERY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mrs. Georgia Vickery on the occasion of her 90th birthday on March 1. Mrs. Vickery was born in Edgewood, Texas to Thomas and Willie Ann Vickery. In February of 1946, she and her husband, Marion Pugh, opened up Pugh Hardware and Furniture in downtown Grand Saline, Texas. From 1970 to 1982 Mrs. Vickery managed this store while her husband served as Grand Saline's City Manager.

A mother to three children, Mrs. Vickery was also very active in the community, serving as a Sunday school teacher, a member of the United Methodist Women's organization, and a member of her Church Council. Today, at ninety years old, Georgia Vickery continues to work for Pugh Hardware by preparing and sending out its monthly statements. She also exercises five days a week, keeps an eye on her farm, and continues her work at the Methodist church.

As a mother, a wife, a devout churchgoer, a small businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Georgia Vickery's life has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORE
SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY TO FED-
ERAL RESEARCH AND POLICY-
MAKING ACT OF 2005

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative WAXMAN and I are introducing a bill to protect the integrity of science conducted and utilized by the federal government: The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act of 2005.

The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act makes it illegal for any federal official to tamper with research findings, censor findings of research or to disseminate findings known to be false or misleading. It extends whistleblower protections to federal scientists who disclose incidents of political interference with science.

The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act codifies the